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Second session
Geneva, 19–21 March 2014

Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development on its second session

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, 19 to 21 March 2014

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I. Chair's summary

1. The second session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-Building and Sustainable Development was held in Geneva from 19 to 21 March 2014. In line with the terms of reference established by the Trade and Development Board, the theme of the second session was "Innovation for productive capacity-building and sustainable development: Policy frameworks, instruments and key capabilities". These issues were addressed by a series of panel discussions that considered institutional policy frameworks, learning opportunities through science, technology and innovation (STI) policy networks, technology transfer, the role of global value chains and demand-side innovation policies.

A. Opening of the meeting

2. The Deputy Secretary General of UNCTAD described the importance of technology in the work of UNCTAD since the 1970s. He said that countries should incorporate the design and implementation of STI strategies into their overall national development strategies to ensure inclusive economic growth. Policy coherence and complementarity defined the Organization's integrated approach to development policy. Since support for STI was especially urgent in the least developed countries, UNCTAD was of the view that technological development and innovation capacities should be featured in the post-2015 development agenda.

3. Introducing item 3 of the agenda and document TD/B/C.II/MEM.4/5 entitled "Science, technology and innovation capability gaps, policy environment, and evolving policy tools for sustainable development", the Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics said that the expert meeting was in line with the Organization's work on STI for development, such as the science, technology and innovation policy review programme. In that respect, a number of issues to be examined by the meeting were also relevant to the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, for which UNCTAD was the secretariat. One of the Commission's priority themes in 20[illegible] would deal with STI in the post-2015 development agenda, and it would be kept informed of the discussion and outcome of the expert meeting. Cross-fertilization between the two events was important.

B. Panel session I: Institutional frameworks for policies relating to science, technology and innovation

4. In his presentation, the Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology of the African Union explained how production, competition and trade successively led to wealth creation. In this chain, innovation could be introduced at every stage and it was essential to propose competitive products that sold well. To encourage technological innovation, it was necessary to protect knowledge and products and secure political will. To overcome gaps in STI, Africa should invest in the necessary cultural and financial means to acquire and create innovative technologies, develop its capacity to absorb such technologies and establish new niches of work to be nourished by skilled locals.

5. The Secretary General of the National Science Technology and Innovation Policy Office of Thailand presented his country's STI policy and institutional framework. In Thailand STI had been embedded in a supportive political environment. The national STI plan considered quantitative targets for research and development (R&D), attached great

importance to investing in the younger generation so as to build a human capital base and encouraged the active participation of the private sector.

6. In his presentation, the Director of the Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (Netherlands) argued that while there was controversy over the causes of the catching-up growth experience of South-East Asia, STI policies, knowledge and technology adoption from abroad, combined with domestic capacity-building, all played an important part in explaining the region's success. In his view, two new patterns of catching-up had recently emerged. The first was catching-up growth and development based on natural resources; the second was based on services. With regard to national innovation systems, there was no single optimal system for all countries, each national system being the result of its own historical development. Significant government coordination and involvement were essential for a system to operate effectively. National STI policies were therefore context specific by nature.

7. A senior information and communications technology (ICT) policy specialist from the World Bank shared the findings of a World Bank Institute report on Finland as a knowledge economy, its STI policies and governance. A number of lessons learned could be helpful to other countries. For example, the knowledge economy was recognized in Finland as a multi-stakeholder ecosystem, and the recognition of education as a key competitive factor could be relevant for countries in a variety of development situations. He stressed the importance of a strong culture of policy evaluation.

8. In his presentation, a professor from the Ss. Cyril and Methodious University of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia said that the country had experienced strong growth but had had no formal STI framework until 2010. Early successes of the policy included improved innovation performance and reduced unemployment. The country planned to strengthen the triple helix formed by government, academia and industry and support capacity-building for entrepreneurship.

9. During the ensuing discussion, one delegate said there was a possible contradiction between an increase in technological inputs in developing countries and a widening gap in technological outputs, as stated in TD/B/C.II/MEM.4/5. The secretariat said that such trends showed that R&D expenditure did not automatically lead to stronger innovation performance without coherence in setting STI policy targets, and ensuring coordination, continuity and effective implementation of those policies.

10. In response to a question about the role of STI in the development of resource-based economies, one panellist said that resources-based development had not worked in the past because value was added outside the countries of origin. Technological development had provided countries with an opportunity to internalize the more profitable parts of the value chain, although this required capacity-building.

11. Several experts highlighted the importance of comprehensive approaches to innovation that considered the full innovation ecosystem. Several participants said that in such an ecosystem, countries had to consider many issues, from encouraging youth to follow careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, to funding schemes for STI.

12. In a discussion on the role of intellectual property, incentives and public–private partnerships, one expert said that incentives and capabilities went hand in hand; for example, a sophisticated patent system without local capabilities would be scarcely relevant to local companies. Also, the ability to develop unused patents could be an incentive to entrepreneurs and innovators. made available through mechanisms such as the Innovation Mill, a Finnish innovation programme. Furthermore, scientific research was not the only source of knowledge, for industry and consumers could be tapped as knowledge producers and innovators.

13. In reply to a query on the role of innovation in political and social change towards more efficient models, one panellist said that this would involve a cultural shift among policymakers from a short-term vision to a long-term vision and prioritization of opportunities for the younger generations; continuity in STI policy management was also important.

C. Panel session II: Learning opportunities through science, technology and innovation policy networks

14. In his presentation, the Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology (African Union) stressed the importance of STI networks for learning. There was new awareness about the importance of STI policy not only in Africa but also in the rest of the developing world. STI networks in Africa had chiefly focused on the main problems faced by the population in the areas of agriculture, health and climate change. Research networks could contribute to raising awareness and creating pressure to allocate research funding for priority areas. Because of the importance of STI in development, such networks should play a crucial role in shaping policies. It was now time for the African region to define the policies and the means for development through STI.

15. A member of the board of the Global Network for the Economics of Learning, Innovation, and Competence-Building Systems (Globelics) outlined the experience of this network and its Latin American branch, Lalics. Globelics was designed to contribute to academic capacity-building in the South, promote knowledge-based development and serve as a platform for South–South collaboration. The Network operated through several regional branches. By fostering the participation of eminent researchers in their activities, the Network had been able to influence local research and policy agendas. In addition, it played a facilitating role through the interactions of its researchers with policymakers. The panellist also outlined recent efforts to develop a network of Latin American multi-stakeholder consultative bodies active in STI.

16. In her presentation on the African branch of Globelics, the Secretary General of the AfricaLics Secretariat said that the network brought together prominent scholars, policymakers and practitioners with experience and understanding of STI in Africa. In the African context, policy networks and capacity-building programmes needed to take into account factors such as inadequacies in formal training in STI, a large informal sector composed of small and micro enterprises and the predominance of linear thinking on STI policy. Africalics promoted the development of STI research capacity in Africa, incubated project-organized research and had set up a website with online materials.

17. A professor from the University of Athens described the experience of the European Commission's platform on research and innovation policies and systems called ERAWATCH. She stressed the importance of evidence and clear targets when designing STI policies and of by-products created by the network, such as the academic research produced using ERAWATCH data. In her experience, human capital, governance and resistance to change constituted more formidable barriers to transforming inputs into outputs than financial constraints, though daunting. Developing countries and the catching-up countries of the European Union shared similar lessons, and some successful schemes such as tax incentives and innovation vouchers had been rapidly adopted by other countries.

18. Several participants wished to know more about the interaction between the networks and policymakers. In response, two experts said that the interaction tended to be as good as the countries' policymakers and that accountability systems and the personal characteristics of policymakers were relevant to secure such interaction. Effective enforcement and coordination mechanisms were also important. Other participants said that

the interaction between the two had always been challenging. Networks such as Globelics focused mainly on research; therefore their message should be adapted to reach policymakers. Further, individual researchers were an important vehicle for conveying Globelics' message to national and international organizations. Policymakers could also be involved by funding research and collaborating in the network's events.

19. Some experts said that since Globelics emphasized the interactive nature of innovation, its main contribution was to have provided a theoretical and analytical perspective based on the national system of innovation concept. Globelics viewed innovation as a productive sector phenomenon; as such, its main policy message was that it was crucial for economic and social development. Innovation was important, as it determined competitiveness, productivity and social well-being.

20. The meeting discussed the potential of digital infrastructure to enable the connectivity of policy research in Africa. Several experts said that connectivity did not pose a problem in collaborating with academic and government organizations. In contrast, it was likely that the digital infrastructure would prove inadequate should collaboration with the business sector be pursued.

21. In reply to questions about the potential of implementing networks similar to ERAWATCH in developing regions and possible opportunities for STI policy networks, one panellist said that it was uncertain how well the platform would work in other regions, although it was a very good way to network because it focused on the business sector. The evaluation results of this initiative in the European context were mixed.

22. Some participants stressed the importance of collecting information for policy design – indeed policies needed to serve a purpose and adjust to a changing environment.

D. Panel session III: Technology transfer

23. An expert from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne, Switzerland, discussed the transfer of technological knowledge and the relationship between technology transfer and innovation. Current studies on the issue looked at transfers between academia and firms on one level and transfers between firms in different countries on another. Absorptive capacities were a key factor for successful transfers, and transfers were demand driven. Technology transfer was part of a greater long-term process of inciting technology-led commerce, growth and development. However, the link to innovation was not to be taken for granted, as commercial and market conditions needed to be in place for technology to affect productivity. If not, technology transfers would not necessarily result in innovation. The economic knowledge relating to the commercial viability of a technology transfer was not transferable and was subject to entrepreneurial discovery in the technology recipients' environment. Supporting platforms that enabled entrepreneurial discovery for technological development and business experimentation were key enablers and necessarily included intellectual property tools to make technology tradable and provide incentives for entrepreneurs to embark on new ventures.

24. Two presentations, one by an expert from Oxford University and another from the University of Navarra, Spain, concerned the findings of recent research on innovation in two developing countries, Ghana and Kenya. Several common points emerged from their presentations. A key one was that innovation in developing countries was of a different nature and to understand it, it was necessary to look at traditional sectors and the informal economy as well. There were many channels of diffusion, starting from traditional trade-based diffusion, to foreign direct investment and knowledge transfers in the digital domain. Another common finding was that the sources for innovation initiatives tended to be local – clients, employees, local clusters, professional networks, competitors and the like. Imitation

was a key source of technological adaptation. Firm size appeared to strongly influence innovative activity, and actions to integrate markets and facilitate company growth could be strong drivers of innovation. Firms that had developed R&D and internal technology transfers were also capable of identifying and acquiring technology externally and diffusing it internally. One expert suggested that smaller firms were more prone to using trade secrets to manage their intellectual property, rather than more formal tools such as patents.

25. An expert from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México spoke about three levels of technology transfer: international transfer of technology, technology transfer from a firm's internal research departments to its operational facilities and from academia to firms. He said that trade and foreign direct investment (FDI) were two of the main sources of international knowledge and technology flows. With FDI, technologies were often transferred in their mature stage. In developing countries, most firms needed programmes and structures to assist with training and consultancy that could support them in selecting technologies, negotiating their acquisition, assimilating and adapting them, and implementing them commercially. Commercial success of technology transfer required the development of a set of internal capacities, including communication between R&D, manufacturing, marketing and finance departments. Open innovation was becoming increasingly important, and it was necessary to revisit the understanding of the role and impact of intellectual property, relate it to business prospects and manage it effectively.

26. Several experts emphasized the need for government policy to recognize the particularities of innovation in developing countries and work on improving the interactions of local innovation stakeholders. For example, universities should be encouraged to collaborate with local firms, as many opportunities were available if transfer were properly managed. This required an understanding of the difference between research and business cultures. Well-functioning university technology transfer offices were an important tool and should be supported.

27. There were obstacles to replicating successful cases of technology transfer combined with entrepreneurial discovery, such as the lack of managerial skills and capabilities related to intellectual property use. It was increasingly important to understand how to move from sole ownership of intellectual property to co-development involving joint filing and commercialization, as the cost of international patent protection was high. The use of trade secrets, while common, reduced a firm's capacities to interact with other innovation players, and other intellectual property instruments were more appropriate.

28. Another major obstacle to innovation was cost of entry – strong and established competition – and the cost of engaging with government regulation, that is to say, bureaucracy.

29. Some experts raised the issue of incentives for staff in firms and universities to shift their research efforts towards innovation outcomes. This required assessing and changing regulations that governed career progress and rewards for researchers and educators. The development of indicators of impact on society rather than research outputs – the number of papers published or patents filed – had proved useful.

30. Some experts wondered whether some new form of international governance could help developing countries benefit from the transfer of technology. Several speakers stressed that there was a need to integrate technology into the post-2015 development agenda.

31. One expert noted the difficulty in designing effective technology transfer policies and queried how countries could strike a balance between using domestic and international technology transfer. In response, another expert said that good diffusion of knowledge technology and innovation was necessary for an effective innovation system. Another expert argued that the situation varied by country with respect to the balance between purchasing versus generating technology depending on their stage of development.

E. Panel session IV: Global value chains and capabilities of firms, industries and economies in developing countries

32. In his presentation, a professor from the University of Pavia, Italy, explained how global value chains (GVCs) were spreading across various industries as a means of fragmenting the value chain of products and spreading activities across firms and countries. Five types of GVCs could be identified, each with a different type of governance by the firms leading the chains. The type of governance was critical because it affected the knowledge flows and learning possibilities for participating supplier firms or farmers, which in turn determined the potential for the latter to either integrate into, or upgrade within, the chain. Knowledge flows and learning for supplier firms were stronger in captive GVCs, as suppliers in them had weaker capabilities, but potential upgrading was generally limited by lead firms to lower value added activities. Modular and relational GVCs offered little direct support to suppliers for upgrading, and they had to learn on their own (in modular GVCs) or mutually with lead firms (in relational GVCs). The policies implemented by governments to promote upgrading by local suppliers varied by the type of GVC in question.

33. Several policy instruments could be used by policymakers to foster the integration or upgrading of local firms or farmers in GVCs. These included promoting the development of strong sectoral innovation systems in a particular industry; establishing meso-institutions to support firms/farmers (metrology and standards organizations, or industry associations, for example); building capacities of firms and farmers through training programmes, for example; establishing incubators or clusters and using public–private partnerships such as research consortiums to promote collaboration and knowledge flows. Other STI policy tools could also strengthen innovation systems and promote capacity-building by firms and farmers.

34. An expert from the Centre for Development Studies of India shared that country's experience with integration into ICT GVCs as a major success story. India had developed strong technological capabilities in ICT, especially in information technology (IT) software, becoming a top global IT software and business process outsourcing exporter. There was, however, no commensurate development of hardware capabilities and electronics production. This contrasted sharply with the case of China, which had developed strong capabilities in ICT hardware and become a leading electronics producer and exporter, but was not a leading software exporter. Inadequate hardware capabilities, a need to increase software production for domestic needs rather than exports, and inadequacies in the software databases available in India were points that required attention. With regard to production for domestic use, public procurement could present a strategic policy tool.

35. A panellist from the University of Cape Town outlined the experience of automobile manufacturers in South Africa with automobile GVCs following the liberalization of the economy during the 1990s. In South Africa, the industry had developed in an environment of industrial policy support and was characterized by small-scale production with a large number of models and relatively low productivity. Overall competitiveness had improved with global integration, but lagged behind that of peer countries. The relationship between R&D and technological capabilities had been relatively complex, and technological capabilities had not necessarily declined although local R&D had fallen. Some firms had developed technological capabilities prior to liberalization, but they were in part geared to meeting the challenges of producing at below minimum efficient scale for the domestic market, and were not the same capabilities needed to compete once the industry became globally integrated. Since South African firms had joined GVCs, licensed technology and equipment purchases had been the norm, with relatively little internal effort through R&D by local firms. A national meso-institution for automotive standards played a major role in

meeting international standards. Two key weak points were inadequate skills development and too rapid liberalization of the industry, making it difficult for local firms to adjust to global integration.

36. The Director for Agriculture and Corporate Affairs of Kenya Horticultural Exporters LTD, outlined the experience of integrating Kenyan smallholder farmers into agricultural GVCs. Smallholders faced many challenges, including very small-scale production, difficulties in accessing financing, low productivity rates, fragmented and scattered production patterns, large knowledge gaps, low literacy levels, inadequate physical infrastructure, problems with access to inputs, high transactions costs and challenges in meeting national and international standards. It was vital for agriculture to meet sanitary and phytosanitary standards and traceability requirements and observe good agricultural practices. It was possible to integrate smallholder farmers into GVCs and raise their income levels and standards of living by providing the types of support needed to overcome these challenges. The actions required included identifying smallholders for support, building their capacity, improving management control, establishing linkages aligned to the requirements of global markets, adopting sustainable production practices and leveraging ethical trading schemes. Often, some type of public–private partnership model was needed.

37. Several experts discussed the potential for a "race to the bottom" in countries trying to move from low value added production activities to higher value added pre-production activities such as R&D, design and logistics, and post-production activities such as marketing and services. Several experts acknowledged the risk as being real, and one offered the example of clothing, with some developing country producers experiencing a race to the bottom in wages as a competitive tool to integrate into clothing GVCs. However, GVCs also increased the opportunities for developing countries to enter into new activities, and firms could seek to jump GVCs to find more lucrative options and escape those that proved unfavourable to local producers. One expert argued that building strong innovation systems could help countries promote more favourable outcomes from integration into GVCs.

38. With regard to the effectiveness of STI policies in enabling upgrading in GVCs, some experts argued that there were many cases where upgrading did not take place. According to several experts, the national policy mix required for the upgrading of local firms went beyond STI policies to include industrial and educational policies. In some cases, industrial policies could have more powerful effects than STI policy, especially where the latter was not well designed or implemented, or not very effective. Although not all innovation generated upgrading, innovation was necessary for upgrading to take place.

39. With respect to intellectual property rights and GVCs, the role of intellectual property rights in GVCs was context specific. While suppliers must respect the rules and standards in place in a GVC or be excluded from it, intellectual property rights did not play a major role in production in many GVCs and activities.

F. Panel session III: Demand-side innovation policies

40. In her presentation, a professor from the University of Athens gave a brief overview of demand-side innovation policies and outlined the experience of the European Union in this area. She said that demand-side policies focused largely on market creation. These policies were more difficult to handle than supply-side policies because, in addition to the technological risk, policymakers had to anticipate the response of other players. At the same time, demand-side policies could be very effective. Demand-side instruments included public procurement to promote the production of solutions that did not yet exist, regulation, support for private demand and systemic policies. In the European Union, the most common demand-side interventions were public procurement of innovation and

pre-commercial public procurement. These policies were largely deployed in sectors such as the environment, energy, and ICT. Public procurement of innovation included technology but went beyond it, involving non-technological innovation and complex systems. She stressed that demand-side policies were lead market initiatives, it was necessary to find the appropriate moment for adaptation, and training suppliers to participate in demand-side innovation initiatives was critical in developing successful policies.

41. The chief executive officer of the Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka presented the experience of his country in building local IT technical capacities through public procurement. The vision of the eSri Lanka initiative was to deliver the benefits of ICT to the country and transform the way Government thought and worked. Sri Lanka applied an integrated e-development model centred in six areas of which public procurement was the most important. In terms of demand-side innovation activities, the strategy, systemic in nature, included fostering local ICT industry development and technical capacity-building through public procurement, strengthening the national enterprise architecture and placing strong emphasis on societal applications and content. Public procurement had focused on creating opportunities for local industry to participate in ICT bids, strengthening technological standards and providing enhanced training for the ICT industry. Public procurement was not the only policy instrument; the ICT strategy also entailed activities aimed at reinforcing the national enterprise architecture and promoting societal applications and content. The ICT policy had enabled significant growth of the local ICT industry, with revenues increasing from $11.2 million in 2003 to $650 million in 2013. It was expected that revenues would reach $1 billion in 2016.

42. Introducing the GAVI Alliance Advanced Market Commitment Programme, an expert from that organization said that the Programme aimed to promote sustainable access to vaccines in developing countries through public procurement. Specific objectives of the Programme were to speed up the development of vaccines that met developing country needs, bring forward the availability of effective vaccines by scaling up productive capacity to meet their vaccines' demand, accelerate vaccine uptake by predictable vaccine pricing for countries and manufacturers, and test the concept for potential applications. Several lessons relating to demand-side policies could be drawn from the Programme: it was important to ensure that countries understood the value of the proposed innovation deployment, decision-making should be evidence based and benefits should be identified and alternative options evaluated. When designing public procurement policies to support innovation, it was important to ensure sound long-term perspectives and transparent decision-making with a view to tracing the policy pathway.

43. In response to queries by several delegates about the interaction between demand-side policies and supply-side policies, and the conditions required to successfully implement demand-side policies, some experts said that the latter were a good support tool but should be combined with supply-side polices in a systemic approach. Further an incremental and adaptive approach to innovation was useful in developing countries. Although such an approach should not exclude radical innovation, it might be less appropriate for smaller enterprises.

44. With regard to the relationship between public procurement agencies and innovation agencies, two experts agreed that fostering collaboration between public procurement and innovation agencies was essential. Merging these agencies, however, could be challenging because of cultural organizational differences.

45. Concerning the feasibility of demand-side policies in medium- and low-technology industries, one panellist said that the experience of the ICT agency of Sri Lanka could be difficult to replicate in very traditional sectors; coordination was critical, and this type of policies would be difficult to implement in highly fragmented sectors.

46. In conclusion, each of the panellists identified a number of key challenges for demand-side policies. With regard to procurement, building trust among vendors was considered critical to implement this type of policies. This could be achieved through transparency, inclusivity and clear guidelines. Several experts pointed out that demand-side policies did not work in isolation and should be framed and implemented within a coherent, coordinated and comprehensive innovation policy. Information sharing, networking and establishing clear policy pathways were other important success factors to be considered.

G. Closing discussion

47. One delegate expressed concern about the need to incorporate STI fully in the post-2015 development agenda, as these were key components of any potential solution to pressing sustainable development problems facing the international community. It was important that treatment of an STI component of the post-2015 development agenda be conducted through an open, balanced process that fully recognized the perspectives and interests of all member States, including developing countries.

48. Several experts welcomed the opportunity afforded by the meeting to share experiences and knowledge and suggested that efforts should be made to ensure continuity in the treatment of STI in future expert meetings. Some experts suggested that it would be important that the closing session of the present meeting could review progress achieved in this area, particularly in connection with a number of potential practical actions that could be undertaken, such as the establishment of cooperation between UNCTAD and STI networks that had been discussed at the meeting. In this regard, the secretariat said that it was about to launch a new capacity-building project that targeted capacity gaps identified through its STI policy review programme and contained training and networking components. Some experts said that the project offered hope for tackling some of the challenges identified during the meeting.

49. One delegate, supported by another, requested that the Chair's summary be sent by e-mail to all participants and experts rather than posting it on the Delegates Portal. She asked that an annex to the Chair's summary containing agenda items and links to panellists' names be prepared for ease of reference and dissemination. She also suggested that the e-mail addresses of participants be added to the final list of participants. It would be helpful if experts could inform the secretariat about their collaborative projects, the idea being that the secretariat could obtain feedback from the experts on their work and then report back to the next expert meeting.

50. The Chair said that efforts would be made to do so and that the summary would be distributed to all participants, which included the experts. She cautioned the meeting that the Chair's summary should not be used as a negotiating document, as it was not an official document.

51. One expert said that policy work on innovation should be combined with capacity-building, networking and partnerships and that STI should be treated in a comprehensive manner. He suggested that a comparative analysis of best practices, lessons learned and guidance should be submitted for review for the benefit of all member States. Cutting private funding for R&D was not the answer.

52. One expert said that it was commonly agreed among innovation scholars that innovation was an interactive process and to that extent technology transfer was an important aspect of innovation policy. It was necessary to create a new perspective, oriented towards emerging economies, rather than the traditional dichotomy, developed versus developing countries and North–South.

53. One delegate expressed appreciation for the UNCTAD project to strengthen innovation through capacity-building. He said that the Chair's summary should be a finished product. To achieve that, coherence was necessary in governance, in other words, the panel should be more representative of the pillars of international governance. This meant that all parties should be represented to give more credible value addition. He suggested that panellists could be designated by types of cooperation: (a) North–South cooperation, (b) South–South cooperation, (c) triangular cooperation and (d) cooperation between continents. All stakeholders, including financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society, the scientific community and parliamentarians, should be represented on such panels.

54. In reply, the Chair said that the topics of the five sessions of the expert meeting had been defined according to the terms of reference adopted previously by the member States. Other topics, depending on the terms of reference established, could be discussed at other expert meetings.

55. In reply to one delegate's query on how ICT related to climate change, the Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics said that the UNCTAD secretariat would be happy to discuss climate change with the delegate in question. To his question about whether ICT should be a priority issue for consideration on the post-2015 development agenda, she said that IT had been gaining ground, as witnessed by its appearance in the Millennium Development Goals Declaration and a report of the Secretary-General. However, whether it would be a priority in the post-2015 development agenda remained an open question. UNCTAD was certainly in favour of such a proposal.

II. Organizational matters

A. Election of officers

56. At its opening plenary meeting, the multi-year expert meeting elected the following officers:

Chair:	Ms. Fatima Al-Ghazali (Oman)
Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur:	Ms. Mihoko Saito (Japan)

B. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

57. At its opening plenary, the multi-year expert meeting adopted the provisional agenda contained in TD/B/C.II/MEM.4/4). The agenda was thus as follows:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Innovation for productive capacity-building and sustainable development: Policy frameworks, instruments and key capabilities
4. Adoption of the report of the meeting

C. Outcome of the session

58. At its closing plenary meeting on Friday, 21 March 2014, the multi-year expert meeting agreed that the Chair should summarize the discussions.

D. Adoption of the report

59. Also at its closing plenary meeting, the multi-year expert meeting authorized the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur, under the authority of the Chair, to finalize the report after the conclusion of the meeting.

Annex

Attendance*

1. Representatives of the following States members of UNCTAD attended the expert meeting:

Algeria
Angola
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Barbados
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Canada
Chile
China
Côte d'Ivoire
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Greece
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Libya
Madagascar
Mali
Mauritania
Morocco
Mozambique
Nepal
Oman
Paraguay
Russian Federation
Saudi Arabia
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Switzerland
Thailand
Trinidad and Tobago
United Arab Emirates
United States of America
Yemen
Zimbabwe

2. The following observer was represented at the session:

Holy See

3. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the session:

Eurasian Economic Commission
European Union
Organization of Islamic Cooperation
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
South Centre

4. The following United Nations body was represented at the session:

Economic Commission for Europe

5. The following specialized agencies and related organizations were represented at the session:

International Atomic Energy Agency
International Trade Centre
World Bank
World Trade Organization

* This attendance list contains registered participants. For the list of participants, see TD/B/C.II/MEM.4/Inf.2.

6. The following non-governmental organizations were represented at the session:

General category

Consumer Unity & Trust Society International
Ingénieurs du monde
International Network for Standardization of Higher Education Degrees